

## **Project Name: Forest Biomass Removal from National Forest Lands**

### **2. Project Summary**

This project is proposed and sponsored by Placer County, in a partnership, with the following organizations; USDA Forest Service (USFS), Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD), and Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI).

Placer County will serve as the lead partner in the implementation of this project. The primary objective of the Forest Biomass Removal from National Forest Lands Project is the removal of multiple tons of woody biomass material from National Forests located within the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) service area. Placer County proposes that the woody biomass material will be removed as a byproduct of fuels treatment activities and that this byproduct be recovered as fuel for clean, renewable energy rather than its current fate which is typically pile and burn or leave on site. These amounts will produce air pollution reduction amounts which will be used in other studies to calculate the affect on contributions to AB32.

The project will facilitate the removal of these tons of woody biomass from three National Forests (NF) located within the Sierra Nevada range; Tahoe National Forest, El Dorado National Forest, Plumas National Forest.

SPI, in conjunction with an environmental settlement with the PCAPCD has allocated \$1 million to support fuels treatment activities on these National Forest lands. This settlement resulted in a mutual agreement to provide benefits to the citizens of the surrounding areas including portions of nine counties; Alpine, Amador, Butte, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra and Yuba. The affected area covers portions of the following three Sub-Regions of the SNC; North Central, Central and South Central.

Specific projects sites will receive fuels treatments consistent with existing Land Management Plans for the National Forests and treatments will be implemented with the assistance of USFS and SPI foresters to ensure that projects are targeted to produce lasting effects on the landscape and are accomplished in conjunction with other relevant public and private ecosystem projects that enhance forest and watershed health. It is anticipated that initial, Phase I projects will target forested landscapes the have already been treated and have biomass material piled and available for recovery and processing as biomass fuel. Phase II projects will target those landscapes that are ready for treatment and have already received NEPA/CEQA review and approval. Phase II projects may be coordinated to support fire clean-up or fire restoration efforts.

Clearly implementation of Phase I and II projects will have lasting, long term benefits ranging from improved air quality to enhanced watershed values. This project will include a final report and the development of a communication plan to inform the public of these net benefits and to encourage similar public/private stewardship partnerships.

Total biomass removal projects implemented as a result of this partnership are projected to cost approximately \$1.2 million over Phases I and II. The total SNC grant request (for planning, management and public information) amounts to \$49,500.